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JUDGE STANTON

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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CELIO NEPTALI LLIGUICHUZHCA, on behalf of :
himself and others similarly situated, :

Plaintiff, :

-against- :

CINEMA 60, LLC, dba CIMENA CAFE, :
ANASTASIOS MANIKES, and STEVEN GALANIS, :

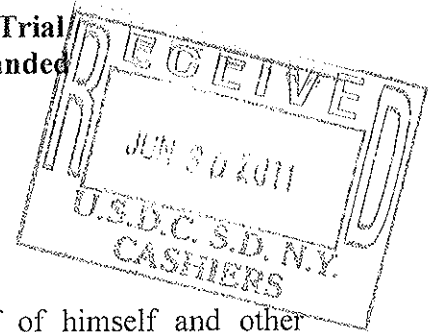
Defendants. :
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Case No:

11 CIV 4486

COMPLAINT

Jury Trial/
Demanded



Plaintiff, Celio Neptali Lliguichuzhca (“Plaintiff”), on behalf of himself and other similarly situated employees, by and through his undersigned attorneys, Cilenti & Cooper, PLLC, files this Complaint against Defendants, Cinema 60, LLC, D/B/A/ Cinema Cafe (“Cinema Cafe”), Anastasios Manikes and Steven Galanis (collectively referred to herein as “the Defendants”), and states as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff alleges that, pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201, *et seq.* (“FLSA”), he is entitled to recover from the Defendants: (1) unpaid overtime wages, (2) liquidated damages, (3) prejudgment and post-judgment interest, and (4) attorneys’ fees and costs.

2. Plaintiff further alleges that, pursuant to the New York Labor Law, he is entitled to recover from the Defendants: (1) unpaid overtime wages, (2) unpaid “spread of hours” premium, (3) liquidated damages equal to twenty-five (25) percent of the sum of his unpaid overtime wages and “spread of hours” premium, (4) pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, and (5) attorneys’ fees and costs.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This Court has jurisdiction over this controversy pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337 and 1343, and has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

4. Venue is proper in the Southern District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because the conduct making up the basis of the complaint took place in this judicial district.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff is a resident of Queens County, New York.

6. Defendant, Cinema Cafe, is a domestic limited liability corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York, with a principal place of business located at 42 East 60 Street, New York, New York, and additional locations at 1327 2nd Avenue, New York, New York; and 2 East 45th Street.

7. Upon information and belief, Defendant, Anastasios Manikes, is an owner, officer, director and/or managing agent of Cinema Cafe, whose address is unknown at this time and who participated and continues to participate in the day-to-day operations of Cinema Cafe and acted intentionally and maliciously and is an “employer” pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d) and Regulations promulgated thereunder, 29 C.F.R. § 791.2, as well as New York Labor Law § 2 and the Regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with Cinema Cafe.

8. Upon information and belief, Defendant, Steven Galanis, is an owner, officer, director and/or managing agent of Cinema Cafe, whose address is unknown at this time and who participated and continues to participate in the day-to-day operations of Cinema Cafe and acted intentionally and maliciously and is an “employer” pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d) and Regulations promulgated thereunder, 29 C.F.R. § 791.2, as well as New York Labor Law § 2 and the Regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with Cinema Cafe.

9. Plaintiff was employed by the Defendants in New York County, New York, to work as a salad preparer and cook for Defendant’s restaurants located at 42 East 60 Street, New York, New York; 1327 2nd Avenue, New York, New York; and 2 East 45th Street; from approximately 2001 until on or about September 2010.

10. At all relevant times, Cinema Cafe was, and continues to be, an “enterprise engaged in commerce” within the meaning of the FLSA.

11. At all relevant times, the work performed by Plaintiff was directly essential to the business operated by Cinema Cafe.

12. At all relevant times, the Defendants knowingly and willfully failed to pay Plaintiff his lawfully earned overtime wages in contravention of the FLSA and New York Labor Law.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

13. In or about 2001, Plaintiff, Celio Neptali Lliguichuzhca, was hired by the Defendants to work as a cook at Defendants restaurant known as “Cinema Cafe”, located at 1327 2nd Avenue, New York, New York.

14. Over a period of approximately ten (10) years, Plaintiff worked for Defendants' Cinema Cafe at 1327 2nd Avenue, New York, New York; as well as its locations at 2 East 45th Street, New York, New York, and 43 East 60th Street, New York, New York.

15. Most recently, Plaintiff worked for four (4) years at Cinema Cafe at 43 East 60th Street, New York, New York.

16. Plaintiff worked for the Defendants continuously from 2001 until in or about September 2010.

17. During Plaintiff's employment by Defendants, he regularly worked over forty (40) hours per week. Plaintiff generally worked six (6) or seven (7) days a week, and his work shift consisted of ten (10) to up to thirteen (13) hours each day.

18. Plaintiff was not paid proper overtime wages. Plaintiff was paid between \$8.50 and \$10.00 per hour, in cash and check, and he worked approximately sixty (60) to as much as eighty (80) hours per week. Work performed above forty (40) hours per week was not paid at time and one-half the regular rate as required by state and federal law.

19. At all relevant times, the Defendants knowingly and willfully operated their business with a policy of not paying either the FLSA overtime rate (of time and one-half) or the New York State overtime rate (of time and one-half) to Plaintiff and other similarly situated employees for work performed over forty (40) hours in a workweek.

20. Defendants knowingly and willfully operated their business with a policy of not paying the New York State "spread of hours" premium to Plaintiff and other similarly situated employees.

21. Defendant, Anastacios Manikes, is an individual who, upon information and belief, owns the stock of Cinema Cafe, owns Cinema Cafe, and manages and makes all business

decisions, including but not limited to, the decisions of what salary the employees will receive and the number of hours the employees will work.

22. Defendant, Steven Galanis, is an individual who, upon information and belief, owns the stock of Cinema Cafe, owns Cinema Cafe, and manages and makes all business decisions, including but not limited to, the decisions of what salary the employees will receive and the number of hours the employees will work.

23. At all relevant times, upon information and belief, and during the course of Plaintiff's employment, the Defendants failed to maintain accurate and sufficient time records.

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

COUNT I

[Violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act]

24. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers each and every allegation and statement contained in paragraphs "1" through "23" of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

25. At all relevant times, upon information and belief, the Defendants were and continue to be an employer engaged in interstate commerce and/or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 206(a) and 207(a). Further, Plaintiff is a covered individual within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 206(a) and 207(a).

26. At all relevant times, the Defendants employed Plaintiff within the meaning of the FLSA.

27. Upon information and belief, at all relevant times, the Defendants had gross revenues in excess of \$500,000.

28. Plaintiff was entitled to be paid at the rate of time and one-half for hours worked in excess of the maximum hours provided for in the FLSA.

29. At all relevant times, the Defendants had a policy and practice of refusing to pay overtime compensation at the statutory rate of time and one-half to Plaintiff for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek.

30. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff overtime compensation in the lawful amount for hours worked in excess of the maximum hours provided for in the FLSA.

31. Defendants knew of and/or showed a willful disregard for the provisions of the FLSA as evidenced by their failure to compensate Plaintiff for his lawful overtime wages for hours worked when they knew or should have known such was due.

32. Defendants failed to make, keep, and preserve records with respect to each of its employees sufficient to determine the wages, hours and other conditions and practices of employment in violation of the FLSA, 29 U.S.A. §§ 201, *et seq.*, including 29 U.S.C. §§ 211(c) and 215 (a).

33. Records, if any, concerning the number of hours worked by Plaintiff and the actual compensation paid to Plaintiff are in the possession and custody of the Defendants. Plaintiff intends to obtain these records by appropriate discovery proceedings to be taken promptly in this case and, if necessary, will then seek leave of Court to amend this Complaint to set forth the precise amount due.

34. Defendants failed to properly disclose or apprise Plaintiff of his rights under the FLSA.

35. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant's willful disregard of the FLSA, Plaintiff is entitled to liquidated damages pursuant to the FLSA.

36. Due to the intentional, willful and unlawful acts of the Defendants, Plaintiff suffered damages in an amount not presently ascertainable of unpaid overtime wages, plus an equal amount as liquidated damages, and prejudgment interest thereon.

37. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of his reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

COUNT II
[Violation of the New York Labor Law]

38. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-avers each and every allegation and statement contained in paragraphs "1" through "37" of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

39. At all relevant times, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the meaning of New York Labor Law §§ 2 and 651.

40. Defendants willfully violated Plaintiff's rights by failing to pay Plaintiff overtime wages in the lawful amount for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek.

41. Defendants knowingly and willfully violated Plaintiff's rights by failing to pay "spread of hours" premium to Plaintiff for each day he worked ten (10) or more hours pursuant to New York State Department of Labor Regulations § 142-2.4.

42. Due to the Defendants' New York Labor Law violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from the Defendants his unpaid overtime wages, unpaid "spread of hours" premium, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs and disbursements of this action, pursuant to New York Labor Law § 663(1), *et al.*, and § 198. Plaintiff also seeks liquidated damages pursuant to New York Labor Law § 663(1).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Celio Neptali Lliguichuzhca, on behalf of himself and all other similarly situated employees, respectfully requests that this Court grant the following relief:

- (a) A declaratory judgment that the practices complained of herein are unlawful under the FLSA and New York Labor Law;
- (b) An injunction against Cinema Cafe Restaurants, and its officers, agents, successors, employees, representatives and any and all persons acting in concert with it as provided by law, from engaging in each of the unlawful practices and policies set forth herein;
- (c) An award of unpaid overtime wages due under the FLSA and New York Labor Law;
- (d) An award of unpaid "spread of hours" premium due under the New York Labor Law;
- (e) An award of liquidated and/or punitive damages as a result of the Defendants' willful failure to pay overtime wages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216;
- (f) An award of liquidated and/or punitive damages as a result of the Defendants' willful failure to pay overtime wages pursuant to the New York Labor Law;
- (g) An award of prejudgment and post-judgment interest;
- (h) An award of costs and expenses of this action together with reasonable attorneys' and expert fees; and,
- (i) Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff demands trial by jury on all issues.

Dated: New York, New York
June 29, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

CILENTI & COOPER, PLLC

Attorneys for Plaintiff

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By: 

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